

**FOR RELEASE**, April 2005

## **Specialty plates promote life-saving organ and blood donations**

More than 87,000 Americans – including 5,800 people in Texas – are waiting for a life-saving organ transplant.

To raise public awareness about this critical need, April has been designated “National Donate Life Month.” The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) offers two specialty license plates that spread the message about life-saving donations: “Be an Organ Donor” and “Be a Blood Donor” license plates.

“Through state and regional organ, tissue and blood donor programs, thousands and thousands of Texans receive the gift of life each year,” said (NAME), tax assessor-collector for (COUNTY NAME). “The national month-long focus on this issue underscores the importance of donation and gives us a special opportunity to promote the organ donor and blood donor specialty license plates.”

The “Be an Organ Donor” specialty plate design features a green ribbon on a blue background and the phrase “Give Life” centered under the ribbon. The words “Be an Organ Donor” are printed on the bottom of the plate. The “Be a Blood Donor” specialty plate design features a cartoon character graphic of a drop of blood colored like the Texas flag and dressed in boots and a cowboy hat. The words “Be a Blood Donor” are printed on the bottom of the plate.

Both the “Be an Organ Donor” and “Be a Blood Donor” license plates are available for passenger cars and light trucks for a \$30 annual fee, plus \$40 if personalized, in addition to regular registration fees. When purchasing the “Be an Organ Donor” plate, \$22 of the \$30 fee is credited to the general revenue fund. For the “Be a Blood Donor” plate, \$22 of the \$30 fee is deposited to the credit of the blood donor account.

Applications for the “Be an Organ Donor” and “Be a Blood Donor” plates are available at county tax offices, on TxDOT’s Web site ([www.dot.state.tx.us](http://www.dot.state.tx.us)), or by calling the TxDOT Help Desk at (512) 465-7611 or TxDOT’s Fax-On-Demand forms line at (888) 232-7033. Customers requesting orders for specialty license plates through the fax service should enter the code 0999 to receive the form for the license plate they are ordering.

TxDOT started its specialty license plate program in 1965. Today, there are more than 100 different plate designs, many of them benefiting a particular group, organization, college or university. Since 1994, more than \$10 million have been raised for sponsoring organizations and scholarship funds.

- 30 -

For more information, call (COUNTY CONTACT PERSON’S NAME), (CONTACT PERSON’S TITLE), at (CONTACT PERSON’S PHONE NUMBER). For a view of the plate or and ordering information, go to [www.dot.state.tx.us/vtr/spplates/allplates.htm](http://www.dot.state.tx.us/vtr/spplates/allplates.htm).